

TALENT DEVELOPED ITSELF.

Young Woman Dressed Dolls and Was Well Repaid.

Ethel was the despair of the family. She was 18 years old, but never had overcome a childish passion for playing with dolls. Nothing interested her so much as making doll dresses and outfits of lingerie. When she came to her eighteenth year the constant nagging of her mother and elder sisters finally induced her to give up her own dolls, but she turned her energies to making and dressing dolls for the children on the block on which she lived. The family, says the New York Press, could see nothing practical in this work and urged her, vainly as it proved, to give it up.

Ethel had a married sister who came to pay a visit at home for a few days, and she examined one of Ethel's dolls with unfeigned interest.

"You are wasting a talent. There is money in this," she said. "Put on your hat and come downtown with me."

The practical, married sister hunted up a cardboard box, put three of the dolls in it, and she and Ethel went downtown to one of the big department stores and had a conference with the head of the toy department.

That night at dinner Ethel exploded a bombshell on the table. "Father," she began, sweetly, "you know how mother and the girls have bothered me about my dolls, don't you?"

Her father looked at her in surprise, and said: "Yes, Ethel, what of it?"

"Well, I went downtown to-day and got an order to make some of them for the Christmas trade. The head of the department said he couldn't give me much of an order, for it was rather late in the season. How much do you suppose the order amounts to?"

"I haven't the least idea, Ethel," he responded. "Three or four dollars?"

"A little more than that. He wants \$75 worth."

Then the rest of the family shrieked: "What?"

The children on that block are not getting any dolls dressed free now.

MINING FOR CEDAR.

Good Lumber Resurrected from the Swamps of Florida.

Mining for cedar is a peculiar industry which thrives in various parts of New Jersey and also in Florida. Great cedar trees which grew and fell centuries ago and have lain for ages under a protective covering of mud and water are thus brought to light and turned into useful lumber, says the New York World.

No one knows how long ago it was when the cedar trees now found hidden in swamps were alive and growing. Cedars grow only on uplands, and time enough at least has elapsed to allow for natural convulsions which have changed the uplands into swa-

Some of the logs found are enormous in size, and belonged to trees which were centuries in growing. The "mud shingler" works with a long sharp iron rod. He drives this down into the swamp until he strikes a log. Then he finds the size and position of the log by poking the rod down all around it. Sometimes the logs are partially uncovered by digging, and are then hauled out with chains and powerful tackle. Usually, however, the covering is dug away and then a peculiar sawmill, built for the purpose, is brought into use and the logs are cut up into shingle blocks, which, in turn, go to the shingle mills. Wood does not rot under water, but most kinds grow soft and useless after long soaking. Cedar does not suffer in such ways because of the resin with which it is filled. Much of the fine soft cedar used for lead pencils is from logs found in Florida swamps.

Distilled Alcoholic Drinks.

Alcoholic beverages are distilled from bananas, the milk of coconuts, rice and peas. The Japanese distill spirits from plums, peaches and the flower of the morderwort. The Chinese make an alcoholic drink from plums.

Keeps Him Busy.

After the average man strikes it rich it keeps him busy trying to forget his old acquaintances.—Chicago Daily News.

NEEDS INVESTIGATION.

County Sheriff Writes from Texas to Post Office Department.

A postal investigation that promises to rival in interest that made by Mr. Bonaparte and Mr. Conrad has been undertaken by an obscure inspector down in Texas. The necessity for an investigation into the conduct of this office, which shall be unnamed, is revealed by a letter from the county sheriff to the department at Washington. Here is the appeal: "We don't set up any claim that our manners are all that they should be, but we'd like to be reasoned with and helped along. The postmistress here is a worthy woman, all right, and there ain't anything against her character, but she certainly is rude and hasty. One day last week the mayor, being some flushed up and careless, refused to remove his hat and bow on asking for the official mail, whereupon his hat was shot off and plumb ruined, and he left the post office so swiftly and undignified that it told against the standing of the town." There can be no doubt that this is an extraordinary case. The idea of a Texas sheriff appealing to the general government for protection, rather than to his own hip pocket, says the New York Post, is so new that it is startling. But there was nothing else to do—absolutely nothing. The mayor had lost his hat, and his undignified retreat from the post office was telling against the standing of the town. Of course, a new

FOR SALE

A FINE HOME

Retiring farmer, if you are contemplating leaving the farm, don't make a mistake by going to some little village and putting your money into the kind of a home you deserve. If you should make this mistake, when you come to want to sell, you could not sell it for what the lumber cost, and you have no advantages in these villages. Come to Falls City, the capital of one of the richest counties in the state, with its fine schools and churches of the highest grades and denominations; where there is a high class of lectures and entertainments going on all the time, and where property of all kinds is advancing until there is not a farmer that came to this city and bought property, but who has made money, by so doing and you can do the same by buying this elegant home. It consists of an eight room house, built out of the best of material; boxed with good ship-lap; papered and sided with a good grade of lap siding; on a good foundation built of fine, large pitched face stone; back and front porches; good large cistern and two fine wells of water; a good cave arched with stone and with house built over it and connected with the back porch; good barn with hay mow; chicken house; smoke house; wood and coal house, all nearly new. Plenty of small fruit, strawberries, blackberries and raspberries, and a fine budded peach orchard. Fine shade and ornamental trees and nice blue grass lawn. Located on 5½ acres of good, smooth land, fenced and cross-fenced; part in good tame grass pasture with well in same. In northeast part of the city; fine neighborhood; within two blocks of the high school, and as the town is building rapidly north, this tract can be sold out in lots and blocks at a big profit, for we will sell this cheap as it must be sold by March first. Can make terms if desired. Now, if you want this 5½ acre tract with all the above improvements, cheap, write or call us over phone No. 168.

Whitaker Bros.

Falls City, Nebraska

mayor might have been chosen, one who was never "flushed up," one who was a Chesterfield on every occasion. So that the question might have been settled. But the sheriff had another grievance against the exacting postmistress. Hear it:

"There's another thing we don't think is fair. This postmistress won't let niggers and greasers come in the office under any consideration. We ain't overfond of niggers and greasers ourselves, but it is sure discommoding for the leading citizens to have to go to the post office personally to get the mail just because this lady don't like to see anything but a gentleman. We don't like to appear fault-finding and vicariously

where a lady is concerned, but this one I'm telling about is sure arbitrary and abrupt, and we'd like to have her toned down some." This seems to be a reasonable request. No doubt, the postmistress is a very worthy woman, but she should remember that she is the "servant of the people," and, as such, bound to treat every one who receives mail, registered letters or consumption cure pamphlets, with equal courtesy. At any rate, a local rule could be promulgated requiring her to put in good condition all hats punctured by her gun in every case where it could be proved that the shooting was absolutely necessary. Mr. Bristow has a real problem in that Texas post office.